

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, TECH, PK, GW
SUBJECT: APPROACH TO PAKISTAN CONCERNING SENSITIVE
NUCLEAR FACILITIES

REF: A. BONN 02673; B. STATE 038854; C. STATE 038095;
D. IAEA VIENNA 1309

1. SUMMARY: DURING CONVERSATION ON OTHER TOPICS, SENIOR FRG FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY ECON/ COMM MINISTER THAT FRG WOULD AWAIT PAKISTAN AND FRENCH RESPONSES TO US APPROACH BEFORE TAKING DECISION ON GERMAN POSITION. HIS OTHER COMMENTS INDICATED THAT FRG WAS CONCERNED ABOUT US SAFEGUARDS CONCEPTS BASED ON POLITICAL EVALUATIONS WHICH GO BEYOND SUPPLIERS' GUIDELINE REQUIREMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY ECON/COMM MINISTER, ACCOMPANIED BY SCIENCE COUNSELOR, CALLED ON MINISTERIALDIREKTOR LAUTENSCHLAGER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, FRG FOREIGN OFFICE, FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF SEVERAL NUCLEAR TOPICS OF CURRENT INTEREST. LAUTENSCHLAGER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DR. ROUGET, CHIEF FONOFF ATOMIC ENERGY
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SECTION. FRG FONOFF OFFICIALS OFFERED FOLLOWING COM-

MENTS TO AMPLIFY REF A REPORT.

3. FINAL GERMAN RESPONSE TO US APPROACH REPORTED REF C WILL DEPEND ON PAKISTAN REACTIONS AND THE FRENCH POSITION. LAUTENSCHLAGER SAID THAT THE FRG WOULD BE PREPARED IN PRINCIPLE TO ACCEPT ALL THE CONDITIONS THE US BELIEVES NECESSARY FOR THE SALE OF A SMALL HEAVY WATER PLANT TO PAKISTAN. HOWEVER, THE US WAS NOW ARGUING THAT EVEN IF PAKISTAN ACCEPTS EVERY REQUIREMENT, THE PLANT MAY NOT BE DELIVERED. THIS DECISION, MADE ON THE BASIS OF A POLITICAL EVALUATION WENT FAR BEYOND THE SUPPLIERS' GUIDELINES CONCEPTS. IT REQUIRED THE ASSUMPTION THAT OUR NUCLEAR "PARTNERS" WERE ACCEPTING SAFEGUARDS WITH THE INTENTION OF VIOLATING THEIR OBLIGATIONS -- A DECISION THAT WE WILL NOT TRUST CERTAIN STATES REGARDLESS OF THE ASSURANCES THEY OFFER.

4. LAUTENSCHLAGER CONTINUED: IF THE US IS SUCCESSFUL IN ACHIEVING ANOTHER "SOUTH KOREA", ALL RIGHT -- OTHERWISE THE FRG WILL BE FACED WITH A DIFFICULT PROBLEM. A GERMAN FIRM HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED AN ADVANCE PAYMENT OF DM TWO MILLION FROM PAKISTAN. WHAT LEGAL OBLIGATION DOES THE FRG INCUR IF THE SALE IS CANCELLED?

5. LAUTENSCHLAGER FORESAW A PROBLEM WITH THE FRENCH AS WELL. IF PAKISTAN DOES NOT WITHDRAW, THE US WILL PRESUMABLY ATTEMPT TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE FRENCH AND THE GERMANS. HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE FRENCH WOULD NOT RPT NOT YIELD AND UNCERTAIN HOW THE FRG WOULD RESPOND IF THE US PRESSED.

4. EMBOFFS RESPONDED BRIEFLY DRAWING ON POINTS CONTAINED IN REF C.

7. ON FEBRUARY 19 ON A SOCIAL OCCASION, HAUNSCHILD (DEPUTY MINISTER, TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY) REITERATED ESSENTIALLY THE SAME ARGUMENTS IN A CONVERSATION HE INITIATED WITH EMBASSY SCIENCE COUNSELOR. HAUNSCHILD BELIEVED THAT THE REPROCESSING PLANT TO BE SUPPLIED BY
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THE FRENCH IS THE MOST SENSITIVE ELEMENT OF THE PLANNED PAKISTAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM. HE RECOMMENDED THAT THE US CONCENTRATE ITS ATTENTION THERE, IF WE CHOSE TO INTERVENE IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PAKISTANIS, FRENCH AND GERMANY.
HILLENBRAND

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